

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, June 25, 2007  
Volume 43—Number 25  
Pages 821–854

## Contents

### Addresses and Remarks

*See also* Appointments and Nominations; Bill Vetoes; Meetings With Foreign Leaders  
Alabama  
Energy in Athens—837  
Reception for senatorial candidate Jefferson B. Sessions III in Mobile—842  
Black Music Month, reception—849  
Congressional picnic—829  
House Republican Conference, meeting—835  
NCAA championship teams—822  
Radio address—821

### Appointments and Nominations

Office of Management and Budget, Director, remarks—828

### Bill Vetoes

“Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007”  
Message—833  
Remarks—831

### Communications to Congress

*See also* Bill Vetoes  
Belgium-U.S. Taxation Convention, message transmitting protocol amending—848  
Russian Federation, continuation of national emergency with respect to weapons-usable fissile material, message—831

### Executive Orders

Expanding Approved Stem Cell Lines in Ethically Responsible Ways—834

### Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters in the Oval Office—823, 835

### Joint Statements

Conference on the Caribbean—836  
President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom on a Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty—847

### Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Israel, Prime Minister Olmert—823  
United Kingdom, Prime Minister Blair—847  
Vietnam, President Triet—848

### Notices

Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation Created by the Accumulation of Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in the Territory of the Russian Federation—830

### Statements by the President

Deaths of firefighters in Charleston, SC—829  
Israel, assistance—828

### Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—854  
Checklist of White House press releases—853  
Digest of other White House announcements—851  
Nominations submitted to the Senate—853

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is also available on the Internet on the GPO Access service at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html>.

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

**US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS  
Washington DC 20402

\_\_\_\_\_  
**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**  
Penalty for private use, \$300

**PRESORTED STANDARD**  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
GPO  
PERMIT NO. G-26

Week Ending Friday, June 22, 2007

**The President's Radio Address**

*June 16, 2007*

Good morning. This week, Congress began to debate its annual spending bills. The American people expect us to spend their tax dollars wisely, or not at all and to pursue pro-growth economic policies that will allow us to reduce the deficit while keeping our economy strong.

Since my administration's tax relief was implemented 4 years ago, our economy has added more than 8 million new jobs, and we've experienced 45 months of uninterrupted job growth. With more Americans working and more businesses thriving, our economy has produced record tax revenues. The Treasury Department recently reported that this year's Federal revenues are up 8 percent over last year. As a result, our Nation's budget deficit is about one-third lower than it was at this time last year.

In addition to pursuing pro-growth tax relief, my administration is working to reduce the Federal deficit through strict fiscal discipline. Over the past 3 years, we have met the urgent needs of our Nation while holding the growth of annual domestic spending close to 1 percent—well below the rate of inflation. I've also proposed policies that would slow the unsustainable growth of our most serious long-term fiscal challenge: entitlement spending. By keeping taxes low and restraining Federal spending, we can meet my plan to have a balanced budget by 2012.

The Democrats in Congress are trying to take us in a different direction. They've passed a budget that would mean higher taxes for American families and job creators, ignore the need for entitlement reform, and pile on hundreds of billions of dollars in new Government spending over the next 5 years. This tax-and-spend approach puts our economic growth and deficit reduction at risk.

For months, I've warned the Democrats in Congress that I will not accept an irrespon-

sible tax-and-spend budget. I put Democratic leaders on notice that I will veto bills with excessive levels of spending. And I am not alone in my opposition. In the House, 147 Republicans have pledged to support fiscal discipline by opposing excessive spending. These 147 Members are more than one-third needed to sustain my veto of any bills that spend too much.

Another key area of difference between my administration and the Democratic leadership in Congress is my support for meaningful earmark reform. Earmarks are spending provisions that are slipped into bills by individual Members of Congress, often at the last hour and without discussion or debate. It's not surprising that this leads to unnecessary Federal spending. And the problem is growing. Over the last decade, the number of earmarks has more than tripled.

In January, I proposed reforms that would make the earmark process more transparent, end the practice of concealing earmarks in so-called report language that is never included in legislation, and cut the number and cost of earmarks by at least half. My administration has also developed the Government's first public database of earmarks, and we've posted them on a web site: [earmarks.omb.gov](http://earmarks.omb.gov). On this web site, we will also be releasing information on new earmarks, because this administration wants you to see where your tax dollars are being spent.

After I announced my earmark reforms in January, the House passed a rule that called for full disclosure of earmarks. But in the past few weeks, Democratic House leaders announced that they were abandoning this commitment. Instead of full disclosure, they decided they would not make public any earmarks until after Members had already voted on the spending bills. This change would have allowed a small group of lawmakers and their unelected staff to meet behind closed doors to decide how and where to spend your tax dollars. I'm pleased to report that earlier

this week, a group of House Republicans stopped this plan and extracted a commitment from House Democrats to list all earmarks in advance and give lawmakers a chance to strike them. The American people need to hold House Democrats accountable for keeping that commitment.

In the weeks ahead, my administration will continue pushing for earmark reform and holding the line on Federal spending. The American people do not want to return to the days of tax-and-spend policies. They expect accountability and fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. And I will use my veto to stop tax increases and runaway spending that threaten the strength of our economy and the prosperity of our people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:15 a.m. on June 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks Honoring NCAA Championship Teams

June 18, 2007

**The President.** Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the South Lawn. This is an historic day. After all, this is the largest gathering that we've had for Champions Day, and we're glad to welcome the champs here to the South Lawn. I appreciate being with good athletes, good students, and good leaders; and that's what it takes to become a champion.

I appreciate the fact that you've endured tough practices, that you've set big goals, and you worked hard to achieve them. And so we congratulate your coaches; we congratulate your families; but most importantly, we congratulate you. We honor America's champs.

The Secretary of the Treasury is with us, Secretary Paulson. Thank you for coming, sir. I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress that have joined us—and the

United States Senate. Now, you don't need to do the gator thing. [Laughter]

The teams here today span 21 different campuses in 14 different States from California all the way over to Florida. You represent eight different athletic conferences: the Big Ten to the Pac-10 to the West Coast Conference and to the Ivy League. There's Tigers and Badgers, Huskers and Anteaters. [Laughter] Go Anteaters. [Laughter] Fight Anteaters.

You've distinguished yourselves on fields and fairways, tracks and tennis courts, rivers and rinks, pommel horses and pools, bowling alleys, mountains, and basketball arenas. You have one thing in common: You have achieved the great title, "champion," and nobody can take that away from you.

We have a number of first-time champs here today. The Auburn women's outdoor track and field team is here. I think that would go "War Eagle."

**Audience members.** War Eagle!

**The President.** There you go. Don't get carried away here; it's a little—[laughter]—it's a little hot. [Laughter]

Speaking about the Anteaters, UC Irvine men's volleyball team is with us. Congratulations. The Gauchos, UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team; Georgia Tech women's tennis team is the first-time champ; Pepperdine men's tennis team is with us. Vanderbilt women's bowling team is with us today. There you go—Wisconsin men's indoor track and field.

Some of the teams here have been waiting a long time to reclaim a championship. Dartmouth men's and women's skiing team—they won their first title 30 years ago, and now they're here at the White House. Congratulations.

Michigan State men's ice hockey team—they won their first hockey crown more than 20 years ago, and they're back. Congratulations to you.

We've got some repeat champs here. It's hard enough to win; it's really hard to repeat. Auburn women's swimming team, back-to-back—ready? War Eagle—

**Audience members.** War Eagle!

**The President.** Cal women's crew.

A feat that's really hard to do is win back-to-back NCAA basketball titles. And we're

proud to welcome the Florida men's basketball team.

Not to provoke a rivalry, however, but the Florida State men's outdoor track and field team is with us. Maryland women's field hockey team, repeat champs. Wisconsin women's ice hockey team, the repeat champs.

We've got teams here that have won three championships in a row—that would be called a three-peat—Georgia women's gymnastics; Northwestern women's lacrosse. I might as well go on the record, all right—I was disappointed in the footwear. *[Laughter]* It's just too conventional, especially on a hot day. And the Stanford women's tennis team. A three-peat champ is UCLA women's water polo. And by the way, their title was UCLA's 100th overall national championship. Congratulations to UCLA. Five-peat, Auburn's men's swimming team.

**Audience members.** War Eagle!

**The President.** Some of the teams are adding new chapters to their schools' record books. Cal men's water polo—they won their 12th water polo championship, which is an NCAA record. The Colorado men's cross country team—the Buffaloes won their second title in 3 years. And congratulations; welcome back. The North Carolina women's soccer team—18th championship in the 25 year history of the tournament. Georgia men's tennis—they went undefeated; they claimed their fifth NCAA tennis title. Nebraska women's volleyball—the Huskers were ranked number one the entire season and won their third NCAA championship. Penn State men's and women's fencing—they won their 10th national championship, more than any other fencing team in the Nation. Penn State men's gymnastics won their 12th national championship. Stanford men's golf—wire-to-wire victory to earn their eighth NCAA golf title.

So I'm sitting back there with the captains, I said, "Do you want the one-hour speech, or the 5-minute speech?" They said, "You been outside lately?" I said, "Yes, barely." I said, "How about the 2-minute speech?" *[Laughter]* So I want to conclude this ceremony by thanking all the people that are here. I appreciate the fact that you're cham-

pions on the field and champions off the field.

You know, I asked some of the seniors what they're going to do, and I remember one girl told me she's going to be Teach for America. That means being a champ off the field. It means giving back something to society. I appreciate the fact that the Pepperdine men's tennis team held a free clinic for children in Washington, DC, just yesterday.

In other words, you can win on the athletic field, and you can win in the classroom, but you can also contribute to our country by helping somebody in need, by using your championship status to help heal a broken heart or to help somebody live a better life.

And so to the champs, I'm glad you're here. For those of you who follow Presidential politics, you know I'll be around one more year. I'm looking forward to having you come back. In the meantime, I ask for God's blessings on you, your family, and our country. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:44 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

June 19, 2007

**President Bush.** Mr. Prime Minister, thanks for coming. I've been looking forward to this visit. Last time we were together, we had a long and serious discussion about what we can do together to keep the peace.

This visit comes, obviously, during a period of great concern for the world about what's taking place in Gaza, and so it's a timely visit. I'm looking forward to our discussions about how we can promote a common vision, a vision that speaks to hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people, and a vision that speaks to the security of Israel.

I'm looking forward to sharing with the Prime Minister the results of a phone call I had yesterday with President Abbas. He is the President of all the Palestinians. He has spoken out for moderation. He is a voice that

is a reasonable voice amongst the extremists in your neighborhood.

You also come at an important moment, because there is yet again another moment for the world to see the great challenges we face in the 21st century. We face extremists and radicals who use violence and murder as a tool to achieve objectives. And it's a chance, Mr. Prime Minister, for us to work on our bilateral relations, but also work on a common strategy to fight off those extremists and to promote a alternative ideology based upon human liberty and the human condition and freedom.

And it's a great challenge. It's exciting to be in office during this period. It can be difficult for those of us who have been given the great honor of serving our countries, but it's an exciting moment. And I'm looking forward to working with a strong leader, a man committed to the security and prosperity of his country and, at the same time, committed to try to work the conditions necessary for peace.

And so I'm glad to welcome a friend back at the Oval Office, and proud you're back.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am honored and delighted, after half a year almost, to be again a guest of yours, Mr. President, in the White House, and to discuss with you some of the kind of issues.

As you have said already, this is a very special time. Things happen lately very dramatically. I'm sure that many people in the world were astounded by the brutality and the cruelty and the viciousness of the Hamas murderers that killed so many Palestinians in such a way. We who live in the Middle East—[inaudible]—some of us surprised, but not less outraged by these events.

And I gladly share with you, Mr. President, the vision that, even under such circumstances, what we ought to do is to try and find opportunities for the future that align the situation. And I'm absolutely determined that there is an opportunity. And like you, I want to strengthen the moderates and cooperate with President Abu Mazen, who is President of all Palestinians, is the only person who was widely elected in a democratic manner by all of the Palestinian people. And I am going to make every possible

effort to cooperate with him and to move forward to see how to—can be—work jointly in order to provide the Palestinians with a real, genuine chance for a state of their own, fulfilling your vision, Mr. President, which I share, of a two-state solution and, at the same time, making sure that there is security for the people of Israel. And the people of Israel deserve security both in the south and in the north and in the east side of our country.

I'm sure that we will find some time, also, to discuss other measures, such as the danger of Iran and the threats that come from the President of Iran, who talks time and again about the liquidation of the State of Israel, something that is totally intolerable and unacceptable. And we have to continue the measures taken in order to stop the Iranian efforts to establish nonconventional weapons.

And again, I thank you for your friendship and for the power that you manifest and your dedication to the principles that you believe in. And I am proud to follow the same route to fight for the principles and to carry on. Thank you.

**President Bush.** We'll answer a couple of questions, starting with Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

### ***Israeli-Palestinian Relations/Situation in the Middle East***

**Q.** Thank you, sir. Will you try to persuade, during the session with the Prime Minister, to reenter peace talks with Mr. Abbas?

And to the Prime Minister, what do you think of the offer, and do you think it's possible to have peace with just half the Palestinian people?

**Prime Minister Olmert.** I didn't hear the first part of the question.

**President Bush.** Will I try to persuade you to enter talks.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Yes.

**President Bush.** First of all, we share a common vision of two states living side by side in peace. And the reason why, at least, I think that's important—one, I think it's important for the moderate people, the ordinary Palestinians to have something to be for. I also think it's in Israel's interest to have

a state. It's a demographic pressure that ultimately is going to make it very difficult for Israel to maintain its Jewishness as a state.

So there's a practical reason as well as a moral reason for there to be discussions about a way forward to achieve a two-state solution. And the Prime Minister has said that he wants—you can ask him if he's going to talk to Abbas. I'm not going to put words in his mouth.

**Q.** I did.

**President Bush.** But what I'm trying to say, Jennifer, is that we share a common way forward. And our hope is, is that others in the region understand that this way forward leads to peace. People other than President Abbas and the Palestinians—we would hope that the Arab world supports such a concept. Inherent in that is Israel's right to exist. There needs to be solid recognition of this state's right to live in peace.

At the same time, we want to have a vision for the Palestinians to see that there's a better tomorrow for them. These folks have been denied for a long period of time the right to a normal life, starting with leadership that failed them. And our hope is that President Abbas and that Prime Minister Fayyad, who is a good fellow, will be strengthened to the point where they can lead the Palestinians in a different direction, with a different hope.

The Prime Minister has spoken to me and I have spoken to him about our desire to help suffering Palestinians. Nobody likes suffering on their border; nobody likes to see suffering in the world. And so we'll talk about that. We'll also talk about the broader war against extremists and radicals.

It's interesting that extremists attack democracies around the Middle East, whether it be the Iraq democracy, the Lebanese democracy, or a potential Palestinian democracy. And what that should say clearly to people all around the world is that we are involved with an ideological conflict that is a monumental conflict. And those of us that believe in liberty and human rights and human decency need to be bound together in common cause to fight off these extremists and to defeat them.

You can only defeat them so much militarily. We have to also defeat them with a better idea. It's a better idea that's being

practiced by our friend Israel. It's called democracy. And that's the fundamental challenge facing this century: Will we have the courage and the resolve necessary to help democracy defeat this ideology? And I will tell the Prime Minister, once again, I'm deeply committed to this cause, whether it be in Iraq or Lebanon or the Palestinian Territory or anywhere else in the Middle East and around the world.

### **President Mahmond Abbas of the Palestinian Authority**

**Q.** Will you enter into talks with Mr. Abbas?

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Well, naturally, I think at this particular point, I'm sure the President will not have hard work to convince me, because I proposed to meet with President Abbas—in fact, I initiated the idea that we will meet on a regular basis, biweekly, to discuss the matters. And I proposed that I even come to Jericho, something that no Prime Minister before me did.

The President was having serious difficulties, some of which we have witnessed lately. And that's perhaps the reason why he had to cancel some of the meetings. But there's no question that I want to talk to the President of the Palestinian community, Mr. Abbas. I will be talking to him. The teams of both sides meet regularly every week and discuss on the matters.

And the idea that I have is to talk with him of the current issues that can help upgrade the quality of life of the people and provide them better security in the West Bank and to share with him the efforts to calm the terror—this is something that he is absolutely committed to doing; we have to do it; and this is not something that the Palestinians can escape. They will help fight terror in a most effective way—something that they haven't done, unfortunately, up until now. But this is something that I am sure he understands is a prerequisite for any major development in the future.

Of course, we also have to talk about a groundwork that needs to be done in order to allow us rapidly to talk about the creation of a Palestinian state. This is the main vision of my friend President Bush. This is the vision that we share. This is the ultimate goal,



to create the Palestinian state. We have to prepare the groundwork that will allow—soon, I hope—to be able to start serious negotiations about the creation of a Palestinian state.

In order to achieve peace, we have to fight terror, we have to increase security, we have to upgrade the quality of life for the Palestinians. And, of course, the Palestinians have to establish a much more credible and serious administration that will be able to take care of their daily needs in an appropriate manner.

### **Israel-Syria Relations**

**Q.** Thank you.

[At this point, a reporter asked a question in Hebrew, and no translation was provided.]

**Q.** Mr. President, the Prime Minister—  
**President Bush.** What did you just ask him?

**Q.** I asked him what Israel—  
**President Bush.** —that's unfair.  
[Laughter]

**Q.** I asked him what Israel will do with the refugees coming from Gaza. Will you deliver to the murderers' guns, or will they be taken to a refuge in the West Bank?

And I would like to ask you, the Prime Minister of Israel calls for negotiation with no precondition with Syria; so does President Asad of Syria, and he asks for U.S. mediation. Will you do it?

**President Bush.** They can handle their own negotiations with Syria. If the Prime Minister wants to negotiate with Syria, he doesn't need me to mediate.

### **Situation in the Middle East**

**Q.** Do you think it's a good idea?

**President Bush.** It's up to the Prime Minister. I haven't had a chance to talk to him about that. I don't know if you're putting words in his mouth, or not. But I'm looking forward to having a discussion about Iran and Syria and the neighborhood. But this man is plenty capable of conducting his own negotiations without mediation.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Well, first of all, I will answer your question, right? We have been very, very attentive to the needs of the—humanitarian needs of Gaza, and we

will continue to provide everything that is necessary in order to meet these humanitarian needs. Israel will not be indifferent to the human suffering in Gaza. Israel will be different from the Palestinians themselves because the reality is that all this suffering is caused by Palestinians against their own people. What the Hamas was doing in Gaza is absolutely atrocious and intolerable. And I'm sure that many who had some hopes that maybe Hamas can be more reasonable and more restrained, I think, lost these hopes because of what they have been doing to their own people—killing innocent civilians, pulling out from hospital beds Fatah people that were wounded and dropped them off the fifth floor to kill them in the street, and terrible other things.

We will not be indifferent. We already are taking care of many of the Palestinians in Gaza during the last few days, and we will continue to deal with it as it comes. Of course, they are not interested in staying in Israel. They want to be amongst Palestinians, and they will be treated in this manner.

### **Israel-Syria Relations**

**Q.** So you will let them go?

**Prime Minister Olmert.** So as I said, we will check every single case, and we'll see how we can help them. And I'm sure that we will help them.

As for Syria, I'm afraid that you may have not have understood correctly what the Syrian leader said. The Syrian leader said that he is against any preconditions from the Israeli side, but he's certainly for preconditions from the Syrian side. One of the preconditions is that he wants President Bush to work more than he does already in regional issues and to be the mediator. And the President said correctly, this is not the—I think—the job for the President of the United States. He's got many other things to do. And I don't think that if someone wants to speak directly that he needs the involvement of America in order to allow these negotiations to take place.

I am not certain that the understanding of the President of Syria can lay the foundations for immediate discussions between Syria and Israel.

**President Bush.** Matt [Matt Spetalnick, Reuters].

### ***Situation in the Middle East/Iraq***

**Q.** Mr. President, with Hamas's takeover of Gaza, aren't you effectively accepting a split between the two main Palestinian Territories? And how big of a blow is this to your vision of achieving agreement before the end of your term for a Palestinian state and Israel living side by side in peace?

**President Bush.** First of all, we recognize the President of all the Palestinian people, and that's President Abu Mazen. He was elected; he's the President. Secondly, we recognize that it was Hamas that attacked the unity Government. They made a choice of violence. It was their decision that has caused there to be this current situation in the Middle East, about which we'll be spending some time discussing.

Matt, the—what you're seeing now in this part of the 21st century is going to be played out over time. This is an ideological struggle. We're looking at the difference between a group of people that want to represent the Palestinians who believe in peace, that want a better way for their people, that believe in democracy—they need help to build the institutions necessary for democracy to flourish, and they need help to build security forces so that they can end up enforcing what most of the people want, which is to live in peace—and that's versus a group of radicals and extremists who are willing to use violence, unspeakable violence sometimes, to achieve a political objective.

And the challenge is for those of us who believe there's a—democracy can help yield the peace, is to continue to move forward. And that's what we'll be discussing about today, how to do so. The Prime Minister said he's willing to have discussions with the forces of moderation in the Palestinian Territory, laying the groundwork for serious discussions. That is a statement that shows that the Prime Minister is willing to move with a—to promote an alternative vision.

You know, the world is going to be confronted with these choices: Are you willing to accept the fact that extremism is around and is willing to promote violence, or should we resist that? Should we not combine forces

and efforts to promote alternatives to this vision? That's precisely what we're doing in Iraq. We strongly believe it's in the world's interest to support this young democracy. The Al Qaida, the people that killed nearly 3,000 of our people here in the United States, are conducting major car bombs and acts of unspeakable violence in Iraq, trying to drive us out because they want to impose their vision on the Iraqi people.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I'm committed to helping the Iraqis succeed with a democracy. It's in the interest of the Middle East that this democracy succeed, as an alternative, because if we were to fail, then all of a sudden, these extremists would have safe haven. Extremists in the Middle East would be emboldened by the failure of those of us who live a nice, comfortable existences not to help those who are struggling for freedom.

And so it's the great challenge of our time, Matt. And there will be forward movement, and there will be setbacks. The fundamental question facing those of us who have offices is, do we have the determination and the will and the vision to present an alternative to these people? And I believe we do, and I believe that's the calling of our time.

And so that's why I'm excited to be talking about it with a man who shares the vision that there is a better way than to accommodate and accept extremism and radicalism.

### ***Iran***

**Q.** Mr. President, question. Regarding the ongoing attempts by Iran to acquire nuclear capability of atom bomb, would you—are you willing to say at this time that a military action against Iran is no longer an option in light of the situation?

**President Bush.** I will tell you this, that my position hasn't changed, and that is, all options are on the table. I would hope that we could solve this diplomatically. And that's why the United States—first of all, we take the threat very seriously. And I fully understand the concerns of any Israeli when they hear the voice of the man in Iran saying, on the one hand, we want to acquire the technologies and know-how to build a—enrich uranium, which could then be converted into a nuclear weapon, and on the other hand, we want to destroy Israel. Look, if I were

an Israeli citizen I would view that as a serious threat to my security. And as a strong ally of Israel, I view that as a serious threat to the security—not only the security of Israel but the security of the Middle East.

That's why we are constantly working to remind our European friends, as well as Russia and other members of the U.N., we have an obligation to see if we can't work together to solve this issue diplomatically. That means to provide consequences to the Iranian Government if they continue to pursue a nuclear weapon, such as financial sanctions or economic sanctions. We want there to be a choice. We want people to see there's—you know, isolation, there's got a consequence to it, that there's a price that's paid for this kind of intransigence and these threatening tones.

And it's difficult work to keep the nations bound together to help deal with this issue diplomatically, but we have done a pretty good job so far. Now, whether or not they abandon their nuclear weapons program, we'll see. But at least we've got unanimity so far, speaking—at the U.N. Security Council—speaking pretty clearly that there will be consequences. And there are being—consequences; there's been some economic consequences beginning to affect the economy.

Look, the Iranian people don't need to live under this kind of conditions. These are proud people with a great tradition. Their Government can do better for them. And threatening the world has caused there to be isolation. And these good folks could have leadership that enables them to have a better economy and a better way of life, an economy and a way of life that really does—enriches their families, that gives them a better chance to succeed. But, no, this group of people have made a different alternative, and now our job is to make sure that we continue to keep the pressure on.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:51 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; and President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran. Prime Minister Olmert referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria.

## **Statement on Assistance to Israel**

*June 19, 2007*

I am strongly committed to Israel's security and viability as a Jewish state and to the maintenance of its qualitative military edge. During our meeting today, I told Prime Minister Olmert that I am committed to reaching a new 10-year agreement that will give Israel the increased assistance it requires to meet the new threats and challenges it faces. The work on this new agreement was launched during the Prime Minister's previous visit. I will send Under Secretary of State Nick Burns and an interagency team to Israel in July to lead discussions aimed at concluding an agreement soon.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel.

## **Remarks on the Nomination of Congressman James A. Nussle To Be Director of the Office of Management and Budget**

*June 19, 2007*

**The President.** Good afternoon. Welcome to the White House. I am here to say goodbye to a good friend and introduce the newest nominee to my Cabinet. Recently Rob Portman came and told me that after 14 years of public service in Washington, he's ready to head home to be with Jane and the family. I've known him for many years. There's no finer man in public service than Rob Portman. He's been a trusted adviser, and Laura and I am going to miss him.

Fortunately, we found a good man to succeed him. Today I'm pleased to announce my nomination of Jim Nussle to serve as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I'm proud to welcome Jim's wife, Karen, his mom and dad, Lori and Mark, and his mother-in-law, Eva Mae. Any man who invites his mother-in-law to a—[laughter]—has got to have good judgment. [Laughter] We're going to ask a lot of Jim, and I thank you all for supporting him in this.

The job of OMB Director is one of the most important in our Federal Government.

The Director has a central responsibility for implementing the full range of my administration's agenda, from defense programs that will keep the American people safe to energy initiatives that will break our dependence on foreign oil to tax policies that keep our economy growing and creating jobs.

In all these areas, the OMB Director works to ensure that the American people get good value for every tax dollar they send to Washington. Jim Nussle is the right man to take on these challenges. For 16 years, Jim represented the people of northeast Iowa in the United States Congress. As a Member of Congress, Jim was a strong advocate for fiscal discipline and a champion of tax cuts that allowed the American people to keep more of what they earn. In 2001, Jim became chairman of the House Budget Committee. As a leader in Congress, Jim showed he can work with Members of both sides of the aisle to get positive things done for America. Jim's name and knowledge command respect on Capitol Hill. And as OMB Director, he will use his expertise about the budget process to ensure that the taxpayers' money is spent with respect and with restraint.

In his new post, Jim will continue the important work carried out by Rob Portman. Over the past 2 years, Rob has served my administration in two important jobs. As the United States Trade Representative, Rob negotiated several new trade agreements and reenergized the Doha talks at the World Trade Organization.

And as OMB Director, he helped me achieve our goal of cutting the Federal deficit in half and doing it 3 years ahead of schedule. He's helped me put forward a plan to balance the budget by 2012 by restraining Federal spending and keeping our taxes low. He's put Democratic leaders in Congress on notice that I will veto bills with excessive levels of spending. He has led my administration's efforts to curb the use of congressional earmarks and implement reforms that will make the earmark process more transparent.

I thank Rob for his service and good advice and, most of all, his friendship. I want to tell his wife, Jane, that after 14 years of commuting to Washington, he's going to be back home in Ohio, especially on the weekends.

Rob is a tough act to follow, but that's why I picked Jim Nussle. He's a man of integrity, a man of vision, a man well-qualified to hold this job. I ask the Senate to act quickly on his nomination. When confirmed, he'll make an outstanding OMB Director.

Congratulations to you.

*[At this point, Director-designate Nussle made brief remarks]*

**The President.** Good job.

*[Office of Management and Budget Director Robert J. Portman made brief remarks]*

**The President.** Good job. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:49 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Nussle and Director Portman.

## Statement on the Deaths of Firefighters in Charleston, South Carolina

*June 19, 2007*

Laura and I mourn the devastating loss of some of America's bravest. Our prayers are with the families and friends of nine firefighters from Charleston, South Carolina, who selflessly gave their own lives to protect their community. These firefighters were true heroes who demonstrated great skill and courage. Their unwavering commitment to their neighbors and to the city of Charleston is an inspiration to all Americans.

## Remarks at the Congressional Picnic

*June 19, 2007*

**The President.** Thank you all for coming. Laura and I welcome you to the South Lawn. This is an opportunity to thank the Members of Congress and their families for serving the United States.

First, I want to recognize the Speaker. Madam Speaker, thank you for joining us. It means a lot that you've come. I appreciate the leadership of the House and the Senate who have joined us. For all the wives and

husbands, thank you for standing by your spouse. It's not easy to be in public office. It's a lot easier, though, when you have somebody who loves you to help you do your job. And so Laura and I want to thank you all, in particular. We're proud to be serving with you. Occasionally we might have our differences, but one thing we all agree on is, we represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank our chef, Paul Prudhomme, from New Orleans, Louisiana—one of the great chefs in America. Thanks for coming, Paul. I thank Tony Snow and his bunch of, well, mediocre musicians—[laughter]—no, great musicians. Beats Workin', thanks for coming. Kermit, come up here. Kermit, we're proud to have you.

**Kermit Ruffins.** Well, thanks for having us.

**The President.** Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers, right out of New Orleans, Louisiana. Yes, sir.

**Mr. Ruffins.** Thank you. Thanks for having us. We're glad to be here. Thank you, sir.

**The President.** Proud you're here. Thanks for coming.

You all enjoy yourself. Make sure you pick up all the trash after it's over. [Laughter]

God bless you, and may God bless America. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 20.

**Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation Created by the Accumulation of Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in the Territory of the Russian Federation**

June 19, 2007

On June 21, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13159 (the "order"), blocking property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are in the United States, that hereafter come

within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons that are directly related to the implementation of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993, and related contracts and agreements (collectively, the "HEU Agreements"). The HEU Agreements allow for the downblending of highly enriched uranium derived from nuclear weapons to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial purposes. The order invoked the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, and declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation.

The national emergency declared on June 21, 2000, must continue beyond June 21, 2007, to provide continued protection from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process for the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 19, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., June 19, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 20, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20.

**Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in the Russian Federation**

*June 19, 2007*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2007.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 19, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 20.

**Remarks on Returning Without Approval to the Senate the “Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007”**

*June 20, 2007*

Welcome. I'm glad you're here. America is a nation that leads the world in science and technology. Our innovative spirit is making possible incredible advances in medicine that could save lives and cure diseases. America is also a nation founded on the principle that all human life is sacred, and our conscience calls us to pursue the possibilities of science in a manner that respects human dignity and upholds our moral values.

I appreciate the fact that we're joined by a lot of folks who share the deep desire to advance science and, at the same time, uphold our moral values. I appreciate the fact that Mike Leavitt is here, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress and Senate who have joined us. I thank you for taking your time to be here on this important announcement today.

I'm joined on stage by two good docs, really smart, capable people: Dr. Bill Hurlbut, professor of Stanford University Medical Center; Dr. Don Landry, professor at Columbia University Department of Medicine—actually, he's the chairman of the department. The reason they're here is, these are brilliant biologists who are seeking new ways to develop stem cell lines without violating human life. And these are smart folks, and I cannot thank them enough for coming to the Oval Office to share with me their wisdom and their vision.

I'm also up here with Carol Franz. She has whipped cancer twice by using adult stem cells. In other words, adult stem cells have saved her life. She's a determined woman who believes strongly that there are different alternatives available to use stem cells other than those which are created as the result of destruction of human life.

And finally, I'm up here with the McNamara family; Kaitlyne is with us. I'm going to talk about her in a second.

I do want to thank the other stem cell patients and researchers and advocates who are here with us today. If you're not in any of

those categories, you're welcome too. [Laughter]

In 2001, I announced a policy to advance stem cell research in a way that is ambitious, ethical, and effective. I became the first President to make Federal funds available for embryonic stem cell research, and my policy did this in ways that would not encourage the destruction of embryos. Since then, my administration has made more than \$130 million available for research on stem cell lines derived from embryos that had already been destroyed. We've provided more than \$3 billion for research on all forms of stem cells, including those from adult and other non-embryonic sources. This careful approach is producing results. It has contributed to proven therapeutic treatments in thousands of patients with many different diseases. It's opening the prospect of new discoveries that could transform lives.

Congress has sent me a bill that would overturn this policy. If this legislation became law, it would compel American taxpayers—for the first time in our history—to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos. I made it clear to Congress and to the American people that I will not allow our Nation to cross this moral line. Last year, Congress passed a similar bill. I kept my promise by vetoing it. And today I'm keeping my word again: I am vetoing the bill that Congress has sent.

Destroying human life in the hopes of saving human life is not ethical, and it is not the only option before us. We're already seeing remarkable advances in the science and therapeutic uses of stem cells drawn from adults and children and the blood from umbilical cords—with no harm to the donor. Researchers value embryonic stem cells because they are pluripotent, which means that they have the potential to develop into nearly all the cell types and tissues in the body. Researchers are now developing promising new techniques that offer the potential to produce pluripotent stem cells without having to destroy human life.

For example, several new studies released earlier this month showed the potential of reprogramming adult cells, such as skin cells, to make them function like embryonic stem cells. It's exciting new research taking place

in the United States of America. Scientists from all over the country hailed this as an important breakthrough. And I'm pleased to report to you that my administration and the NIH helped fund this exciting work. The taxpayers' dollars are going to new kinds of therapies, new kinds of science, new kinds of work that do not cross a moral and ethical line.

A few months earlier, scientists discovered that cells extracted from amniotic fluid and placentas could also provide stem cells that seem to do what embryonic cells can. Still other researchers are investigating how to combine reprogramming and other innovative techniques to produce stem cells with the abilities of embryonic stem cells, without creating or destroying embryos. There's a lot of interesting work going on that's ethical and moral. Scientists are exploring ways to collect stem cells in the same manner that doctors now rescue organs from patients who have died.

With us today are patients who are benefiting from ethical stem cell research, including Kaitlyne McNamara. Kaitlyne was born with spina bifida, a disease that damaged her bladder. None of the treatments her doctor tried had worked; she was in danger of kidney failure. Then her doctors took a piece of her bladder, isolated the healthy stem cells, and used them to grow a new bladder in a laboratory, which they then transplanted into her. And here she stands, healthy. Scientific advances like this one are important and should give us hope that there's a better way forward than scientific advances that require the destruction of a human life.

The researchers pursuing these kinds of ethically responsible advances deserve our support, and there is legislation in Congress to give them that support. Recently, the United States Senate passed a bill sponsored by Norm Coleman and others that would authorize additional Federal funding for alternative stem cell research. The bill was approved with the backing of 70 United States Senators. The House leaders need to pass similar legislation that would authorize additional funds for ethical stem cell research. That would be an important advancement. It would be an important statement, because

we can't lose the opportunity to conduct research that would give hope to those suffering from terrible diseases and help this country move beyond the controversies over embryo destruction.

We have a good chance to put aside all the politics and focus on a good piece of legislation that advances science and doesn't cross an ethical line. Norm, I want to thank you and Johnny Isakson for sponsoring that piece of legislation.

In the meantime, my administration is taking immediate action to increase our support for researchers in their vital work. Earlier today, I issued an Executive order to strengthen our Nation's commitment to research on pluripotent stem cells. This order takes a number of important steps. The order directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the NIH to ensure that any human pluripotent stem cell lines produced in ways that do not create, destroy, or harm human embryos will be eligible for Federal funding.

The order expands the NIH Embryonic Stem Cell registry to include all types of ethically produced human pluripotent stem cells. The order renames the registry—calls it this, the Pluripotent Stem Cell Registry—so it reflects what stem cells can do, instead of where they come from. The order invites scientists to work with the NIH so we can add new, ethically derived stem cell lines to the list of those eligible for Federal funding. I direct Secretary Leavitt to conduct an assessment of what resources will be necessary to support this important new research.

This science, which does not cross ethical lines, requires money. I believe it is a good use of taxpayers' money to spend money on this kind of science and research. And Michael is going to expedite it, that's what that means—it's a fancy paragraph for saying he's going to get it done. *[Laughter]*

With these steps, we'll encourage scientists to expand the frontiers of stem cell research. We want to encourage science. We want to say, we stand on your side in an ethically responsible way. Scientists have recently shown they have the ingenuity and skill to pursue the potential benefits of pluripotent stem cell research. Here's two of them right here. That's why they're standing here; they have

showed what's possible. I have confidence in their abilities to continue to develop new techniques. With our expanded support of nondestructive research methods, we'll make it more likely that these exciting advances continue to unfold.

Technical innovation in this difficult area is opening up new possibilities for progress without conflict or ethical controversy. So I invite policymakers and scientists to come together to speed our Nation toward the destination we all seek, where medical problems can be solved without compromising either the high aims of science or the sanctity of human life.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to S. 5; S. 30; and Executive Order 13435.

### **Message to the Senate Returning Without Approval the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007"** *June 20, 2007*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 5, the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007."

Once again, the Congress has sent me legislation that would compel American taxpayers, for the first time in our history, to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos.

In 2001, I announced a policy to advance stem cell research in a way that is ambitious, ethical, and effective. I became the first President to make Federal funds available for embryonic stem cell research, and my policy did this in ways that would not encourage the destruction of embryos. Since then, my Administration has made more than \$130 million available for research on stem cell lines derived from embryos that had already been destroyed. We have also provided more than \$3 billion for research on all forms of stem cells, including those from adult and other non-embryonic sources.

This careful approach is producing results. It has contributed to proven therapeutic treatments in thousands of patients with



many different diseases. And it is opening the prospect of new discoveries that could transform lives. Researchers are now developing promising new techniques that offer the potential to produce pluripotent stem cells, without having to destroy human life—for example, by reprogramming adult cells to make them function like stem cells.

Technical innovation in this difficult area is opening up new possibilities for progress without conflict or ethical controversy. Researchers pursuing these kinds of ethically responsible advances deserve support, and there is legislation in the Congress to give them that support. Bills supporting alternative research methods achieved majority support last year in both the House and the Senate. Earlier this spring another bill supporting alternative research won overwhelming majority support in the Senate, and I call on House leaders to pass similar legislation that would authorize additional funds for ethical stem cell research. We cannot lose the opportunity to conduct research that would give hope to those suffering from terrible diseases and help move our Nation beyond the controversies over embryo destruction. I invite policymakers and scientists to come together to solve medical problems without compromising either the high aims of science or the sanctity of human life.

S. 5, like the bill I vetoed last year, would overturn today's carefully balanced policy on stem cell research. Compelling American taxpayers to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos would be a grave mistake. I will not allow our Nation to cross this moral line. For that reason, I must veto this bill.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 20, 2007.

### **Executive Order 13435—Expanding Approved Stem Cell Lines in Ethically Responsible Ways**

*June 20, 2007*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to provide leadership with respect to research on

pluripotent stem cells derived by ethically responsible techniques so that the potential of pluripotent stem cells can be explored without violating human dignity or demeaning human life, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Research on Alternative Sources of Pluripotent Stem Cells.** (a) The Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) shall conduct and support research on the isolation, derivation, production, and testing of stem cells that are capable of producing all or almost all of the cell types of the developing body and may result in improved understanding of or treatments for diseases and other adverse health conditions, but are derived without creating a human embryo for research purposes or destroying, discarding, or subjecting to harm a human embryo or fetus.

(b) Within 90 days of this order, the Secretary, after such consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health (Director), shall issue a plan, including such mechanisms as requests for proposals, requests for applications, program announcements and other appropriate means, to implement subsection (a) of this section, that:

- (i) specifies and reflects a determination of the extent to which specific techniques may require additional basic or animal research to ensure that any research involving human cells using these techniques is clearly consistent with the standards established under this order and applicable law;
- (ii) prioritizes research with the greatest potential for clinical benefit;
- (iii) takes into account techniques outlined by the President's Council on Bioethics, and any other appropriate techniques and research, provided they clearly meet the standard set forth in subsection (a) of this section;
- (iv) renames the "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry" the "Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Registry;" and
- (v) adds to the registry new human pluripotent stem cell lines that clearly meet the standard set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall report to the President on the activities carried out under this

order during the past fiscal year, including a description of the research carried out or supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health, and other developments in the science of pluripotent stem cells not derived from human embryos.

**Sec. 2. Policy.** The activities undertaken and supported by and under the direction of the Secretary shall be clearly consistent with the following policies and principles:

(a) the purposes of this order are (i) to direct the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health, to intensify peer reviewed research that may result in improved understanding of or treatments for diseases and other adverse health conditions, and (ii) to promote the derivation of human pluripotent stem cell lines from a variety of alternative sources while clearly meeting the standard set forth in section 1(a) of this order;

(b) it is critical to establish moral and ethical boundaries to allow the Nation to move forward vigorously with medical research, while also maintaining the highest ethical standards and respecting human life and human dignity;

(c) the destruction of nascent life for research violates the principle that no life should be used as a mere means for achieving the medical benefit of another;

(d) human embryos and fetuses, as living members of the human species, are not raw materials to be exploited or commodities to be bought and sold; and

(e) the Federal Government has a duty to exercise responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, both supporting important medical research and respecting ethical and moral boundaries.

**Sec. 3. Interpretation of this Order.** (a) For purposes of this order, the term “human embryo” shall mean any organism, not protected as a human subject under 45 CFR 46 as of the date of this order, that is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or human diploid cells.

(b) For purposes of this order, the term “subjecting to harm a human embryo” shall mean subjecting such an embryo to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for

research on fetuses in utero under 45 CFR 46.204(b) and section 498(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289g(b)) as of the date of this order.

(c) Nothing in this order shall be construed to affect any policy, guideline, or regulation regarding embryonic stem cell research, human cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer, or any other research not specifically authorized by this order, or to forbid the use of existing stem cell lines deemed eligible for other federally funded research in accordance with the presidential policy decision of August 9, 2001, for research specifically authorized by this order.

**Sec. 4. General Provisions.** (a) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 20, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,  
11:09 a.m., June 21, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 22.

### **Remarks Following a Meeting With the House Republican Conference and an Exchange With Reporters**

*June 20, 2007*

**The President.** I want to thank Congressmen Boehner, Blunt, and other leaders of the House of Representatives for coming today. We just had a discussion about how we will work together to make sure that when we spend the taxpayers' money, we do so in a way that is fiscally sound and keeps our economy growing. I have submitted a budget to the Congress that sets priorities—no greater priority, by the way, than defending this homeland against attack. It's a budget

that keeps taxes low so the economy continues to grow. And it's a budget that will balance—be in balance in 5 years.

Now, there's an alternative budget that has been presented in the Congress by the Democrats, which will increase spending by a significant amount, in our view, and will require tax raises in order to meet that spending. We don't think that's right for the country. We don't think that's a good way to keep the economy strong. And we think we ought to be trusting taxpayers with their own money, so they can make choices with their money.

And so, to this end, the Members of Congress delivered me a letter—147 signatures on it—that said they will support me on any veto of a bill that is—exceeds the spending limits that we collectively think is necessary for the good of the country.

And I want to thank the Members for coming. I assured them that I'm going to work with them to represent the taxpayers and the working people of the United States, represent the small-business owners that are working hard to realize their dreams and increase their payrolls. And we will be effective by working together.

And I thank these leaders for coming down and spending time with us to talk about this important strategy. Of course, we talk all the time because we've got a common goal, which is to keep the economy strong and the Nation safe. And I appreciate you working with us to achieve that objectives.

Thank you. Thank you.

**Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City, NY**

**Q.** What do you think about Bloomberg?

**The President.** That's a fine news organization, but who do you work—no. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## **Joint Statement on the Conference on the Caribbean**

*June 20, 2007*

**1.** We, the Heads of State and Government of the United States of America and of the Caribbean Community Nations of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, meeting in Washington D.C. on June 20, 2007, reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to a secure and prosperous region and future for the benefit of all of our citizens.

**2.** Recalling our shared history of democracy, respect for human rights, social justice, and cultural and ethnic diversity, we highlight the value of our enduring friendship and recommit ourselves to enhancing our partnership to reinforce the development aspirations that guide our mutual priorities.

**3.** We pledge to continue promoting the consolidation of democratic norms, values, and institutions throughout the hemisphere and to enhance accountability and respect for individual rights.

**4.** We agree to take steps to expand economic opportunities for our people, to address the threats of terrorism and crime, and to provide the benefits of democracy to all members of our societies, recognizing that democracy will best flourish if our societies are stable and our economies are prosperous.

**5.** We recognize the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy as a critical element of the growth and development strategy of the Caribbean Community.

**6.** We are determined to strengthen our existing trade arrangements. We acknowledge President Bush's announcement to work with Congress to extend and update the Caribbean Basin Trade Promotion Act and the 1991 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. We further commit to the harmonization of customs procedures consistent with global standards and the advancement of technical trade cooperation.

**7.** We reiterate our support for Caribbean efforts to expand the services sector, and encourage a focus on the international financial services sector to facilitate a competitive

means of economic diversification while remaining committed to the maintenance of appropriate regulatory and supervisory practices, consistent with the highest international standards.

**8.** Cognizant of the spread of HIV and AIDS and the impact on the economic and social development of our people, we pledge to deepen our cooperation in health and welcome the initiative to continue PEPFAR in the Caribbean.

**9.** Cognizant that more than 95 percent of CARICOM's energy needs are derived from fossil fuels, we pledge to increase cooperation in this area to achieve sustainable, secure, and affordable access to energy for all our citizens.

**10.** We agree to increase cooperation efforts in the field of education and workplace training. We commit to strengthen teacher training by expanding the Caribbean Centers for Excellence. We also commit to strengthen human capacity in the Caribbean to meet the demands of a 21st century employment environment through partnering with academic institutions and non-governmental groups as well as through skills training for youth via the Entra-21 program.

**11.** We declare our intention to negotiate an agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology including Information Communication Technologies.

**12.** We recommit to our ongoing efforts of cooperation in the area of disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery.

**13.** We acknowledge the multidimensional nature of the security threats and challenges faced by our countries and pledge to continue to work together in the fight against terrorism, trafficking in persons, drugs and small arms, and transnational crime.

**14.** We also acknowledge the successful security partnership developed to secure the CARICOM Region during its hosting of the Cricket World Cup 2007. To this end, we agree to continue strengthening the Region's security infrastructure.

**15.** We recognize the need to work more closely on immigration security issues in a manner respectful of national laws and government services capacity and sensitive to the effects of human displacement. We will jointly work toward the expansion of the pilot re-

integration program for deportees in Haiti to include other CARICOM member states. We will develop new ways to facilitate, coordinate, and communicate between our immigration services.

**16.** We are heartened by the substantial progress in Haiti made by the Government of President Preval, with the support of international partners. We recognize that Haiti will continue to require substantial regional and international support in the implementation of a consistent and long-term strategy of institution and capacity building, and pledge to work together with the three branches of the Haitian Government.

**17.** On the occasion of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the generations of Caribbean-Americans who have helped shape the spirit and character of the United States of America and who continue to contribute to the growth and development of the Caribbean.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

## Remarks on Energy in Athens, Alabama

June 21, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Thanks for coming by to say hello. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your kind introduction, and thanks for the invitation to tour this impressive facility. The restart of Browns Ferry Unit Number 1 represents the first nuclear reactor to come on line in the United States in more than a decade. This is a demonstration that one is capable of doing a job on time and on budget. And I congratulate you all for your hard work, and thank you for the contribution you're making to the United States of America.

I'm going to talk a little bit about nuclear power today, and there's no better place to do it here—than with a group of folks who understand the great benefits of nuclear power to our country. I believe that it is essential that we have a comprehensive energy policy to be able to deal with the challenges we're going to face in the 21st century, whether that be energy independence or economic security or good environmental

policy. And at the core of such policy must be electricity generated from nuclear power.

I'm also here to nudge Congress along. They're working on a bill—[*laughter*]*—that I hope that they can get to my desk, that is a good bill, a balanced bill, a reasonable approach to making sure we continue to be wise about how we use energy in the United States.*

I do want to thank Bill for his leadership, and I thank the members of the board of the TVA. I thank Tom Kilgore for taking time to visit today. He's led me on a tour with R.G. Jones. Some of you may have heard of R.G. R.G. and I discovered we're both 60. [*Laughter*] We were born in 1946, which is a fine year to be born, at least as far as R.G. and I are concerned. [*Laughter*] I reminded him, 60 is not as old as it used to sound—until I climbed up all those stairs to get to the control room. [*Laughter*] I also want to thank Brian O'Grady, the vice president here.

We put a good man who understands nuclear power as the head of the Energy Department, Sam Bodman. And he's with us today. Mr. Secretary, thank you for traveling with us. Appreciate you coming. Also with us is Dr. Dale Klein, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It's an important position. It's a position that's going to expedite the regulations so we can get more plants up and running. And I'll talk a little bit about his intentions and our intentions to help increase nuclear power here in the United States.

I'm traveling with a fine United States Senator in Jeff Sessions, as well as the Congressman from this district, a man awfully proud of the work you do here, and that's Bud Cramer. Finally, we let a fellow from Mobile tag along with us, Congressman Jo Bonner. Appreciate you coming, Congressman.

I thank all the employees who work at this plant. Thanks for what you're doing. Thanks for being skillful. Thanks for working hard. And thanks for helping the country.

The world is seeing the promise and potential of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. I emphasize that word, "peaceful use," because one of my predecessors, Dwight David Eisenhower, in 1953, called on the world's

scientists and engineers to find a way to produce peaceful power from atomic energy that would serve the needs, rather than the fears, of mankind. And that's exactly what we're doing here. You're serving the needs, rather than the fears, of mankind. You're helping implement the vision of President Dwight David Eisenhower.

Nuclear power is America's third leading source of electricity. It provides nearly 20 percent of our country's electricity. I don't know if a lot of our citizens understand that, but nuclear power is a key component of economic vitality because it provides 20 percent of the electricity.

Interestingly enough, nuclear power provides 78 percent of electricity for France, provides 50 percent for Sweden, 30 percent for the entire European Union. China has nine nuclear reactors in operation and has ambitious plans to build many more over the next two decades.

Nuclear power is prevalent, and it's recognized as a necessary power source, not only here in the United States but around the world. Nuclear power is clean. It's clean, domestic energy. There is a lot of discussion about the environment, as there should be. We certainly want to leave the environment better for the next generation that comes along. There's a lot of discussion about greenhouse gases, which I believe is a serious problem.

And therefore, I remind those who share my concern about greenhouse gases that nuclear energy produces no greenhouse gases. If you are interested in cleaning up the air, then you ought to be an advocate for nuclear power. Without nuclear power here in the United States, there would be nearly 700 million additional tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere every year. There is no single solution to climate change, but there can be no solution without nuclear power.

Nuclear power is safe. The nuclear sector is one of the safest industries in the United States. Advances in science and engineering and plant design have made nuclear plants even safer than the last generation of plants. In other words, technology has advanced; knowledge has advanced; engineering has advanced. This is a safe plant and the people in the United States must understand that.

They've also got to understand that NRC inspectors are stationed full-time at these plants to provide daily inspections, and I appreciate the NRC inspectors who are with us today. In other words, we go extra steps to be able to say to the American people, this is a safe place to work, and it's a safe facility to have in the area of the country in which you live.

Nuclear power is affordable, and it is reliable. Once a nuclear plant is constructed, fuel and operating costs are low. The cost of electricity from a nuclear powerplant is stable. It is predictable. The cost of electricity from a plant like this doesn't fluctuate the way plants fired by natural gas can fluctuate. The flow of power is not intermittent like the wind. In other words, this is a reliable source of low-cost energy.

We need nuclear power to play a greater role in our future. That's what I want to share with you and the American people as we talk about a comprehensive energy strategy, a comprehensive energy plan—nuclear power has got to be a really important part of our future.

Nuclear power is the only large-scale, emissions-free power source that is currently able to meet the growing need for electricity. As our economy grows, with additional demands for power and electricity, nuclear power can handle those needs.

In order to keep pace with our nuclear energy needs, experts believe it will be necessary to build an average of three new plants per year starting in 2015. In other words, it's one thing to talk about nuclear power; it's another thing to have—understand the strategy necessary.

So we are going to need three plants starting in 2015. And as we tackle climate change, it may be necessary to have even more plants. Here's the problem: Our country has not ordered a new nuclear powerplant since the 1970s, partially as a result of constant litigation and overly complex regulations. So we're working to overcome those obstacles. I appreciate the fact that the TVA is making decisions to move forward nuclear power. It's time for our country to start building nuclear powerplants again. This is what I want to share with you.

One thing to restart one, and I congratulate you. It's another thing to build the new ones. And that's what we ought to have happen if we're interested in a comprehensive, sound, wise energy policy that is environmentally friendly. The Federal Government is helping to expand the safe use of nuclear power in some important ways.

First, we've set up what's called the Nuclear Power 2010 initiative. We launched the nuclear power initiative, which is a partnership between industry and the U.S. Government to reduce regulatory and other barriers to the development of new nuclear powerplants. That's why we set it up. We want to start building plants, and we recognize that there have been some regulatory burdens that prevent the construction of new plants, or at least discourage the construction of new plants.

The 2008 budget I submitted would double the requested funding for this initiative to \$114 million. In other words, it takes money to get this initiative moving. And we're asking Congress to spend money on it in order to help us put in a comprehensive energy strategy. It makes sense. It's just a common-sense strategy.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is working to improve and streamline the regulatory process to help accelerate the construction of nuclear plants. Under the old system, the permitting process was slow. Some of the older hands here might remember that. It was cumbersome because it limited builders to completing only one step at a time before moving on. You could only do one thing, and then there would be regulatory deals and then another thing—and it just took a long time. And when something takes a long time to build, that discourages capital and discourages people from moving forward. Plus you could get sued all the time. That would discourage people as well.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is implementing a more efficient review process that allows builders to complete several steps at a time without compromising safety. They took a good look at the problems; they said, we need more nuclear power; and so we're going to streamline the process. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission now expects 20 applications for combined construction

and operating licenses for up to 30 new reactors. In other words, we're beginning to make some progress. Things are beginning to change. Attitudes are changing, and so is the regulatory process, which has enabled me to tell you, we've got 20 applications for nearly—for up to 30 new reactors. That is good news for the American consumer.

And we think that we ought to be—America ought to—should be able to start construction on additional nuclear plants by the end of this decade. That's not all that far away. That's why I've got the Chairman of the NRC here; I want him to hear what I just said. *[Laughter]* He's doing some good work. He's got more work to do.

I signed an energy bill in 2005 that included important incentives to support the development of nuclear power, including Federal risk insurance for builders of new nuclear plants, loan guarantee eligibility, and production tax credits. In other words, to get this industry started, put some incentives out there for people that would be spending the money to get the plants going.

We're working to settle the issue of storage for nuclear waste. That's an issue. More than 55,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste are stored at a hundred sites in 39 States. I've submitted a budget of \$495 million to continue progress on licensing Yucca Mountain as a repository for spent fuel.

There's also another idea that I want you to—I know you know about it, but I want Americans and Congress to consider. We ought to do something about reprocessing. We ought to bring that technology to bear. We ought to bring new technologies to bear to help us all deal with the spent fuel. So we proposed the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership to work with nations with advanced civilian nuclear energy programs, such as France, Japan, China, and Russia. And the reason why we proposed this partnership is, we want to use technologies, new technologies—develop and use technologies that effectively and safely recycle spent nuclear fuel.

Reprocessing spent uranium fuel for use in advanced reactors will allow us to extract more energy and has the potential to reduce storage requirements for nuclear waste by up

to 90 percent. I am confident that we can have the technological breakthroughs necessary to deal with the fuel. Congress needs to spend the money in order to do the research. And when we do, we will be able to answer a lot of the charges of our critics that say, "What are you going to do with the fuel?"

Well, here's a good answer: Recycle it; reburn it; and reduce the amount of the problem. And that's what the United States needs to be doing.

Nuclear power is part of a broader strategy. I want to spend a little time on the broader strategy before we all pass out in here. *[Laughter]* There's enough hot air in the room as there is. *[Laughter]*

We're too dependent on oil. And you know, in 1985, about 27 percent of our oil came from other countries; today, about 60 percent does. And that's a dependency that creates economic and national security problems for us.

On the national security side, our dependence on oil leaves us more vulnerable to hostile regimes and terrorists. If you can blow up oil facilities overseas, it will affect the price of oil here at home. When you're dependent on something and somebody disrupts the supply on which you're dependent, it will affect you. It affects international politics, to a certain extent, to be dependent on oil.

When the price of oil goes up for whatever reason overseas, it affects the price of gasoline here in northern Alabama. So there is an economic issue for being dependent on oil. And, of course, when oil is burned as a fuel, it affects the environment. So we've got to change our dependency.

One way to do so is to spend some of your money on new technologies that will change how we live in positive ways. So we spent \$12 billion since I've been the President to develop cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy sources. I think that's a wise use of your money, to encourage research and development on new ways to drive your cars, for example.

One such example is—that we're spending your money on is for clean coal technologies. We've got to do something to make sure that when we have electricity generated by coal,

that we can say to future generations of Americans, "We're going to protect the environment as well." We've got a lot of coal. If you want to be less dependent on foreign sources of oil, you ought to use the energy sources you've got here at home. Not all electricity is going to be generated as a result of nuclear power. We're going to be burning coal. And so we are spending a lot of money, and I believe that we'll have the emission-free coal plants that will capture and remove virtually all air pollutants and greenhouse gases from burning coal. That's what the experts tell me.

So some of your money, some of your hard-earned money is going to encourage that kind of research. I think it's worth it. And I know it's necessary if we want to be less dependent on oil and be good about how we deal with the environment.

And we're also spending money to help others research wind and solar power. That's a nice alternative. It's certainly not going to—wind power is not going to be nearly as effective and efficient as nuclear power, but it can be a part of the mix.

If you want to affect dependency on oil, then we've got to figure out how to use—put different power sources in our cars. Gasoline is oil. So when you say, "I'm using gasoline," you really are using oil. Because that's how—that's where gasoline comes from. And so one idea that we're working on is to encourage ethanol, which works. See, if you're driving your automobile based upon something a farmer grows here in northern Alabama, as opposed to something as a result of buying from overseas—makes sense to me.

If you've got your farmer growing something that powers your automobile, I think it puts us in a much better position economically and from a national security perspective. And we're spending a fair amount of your money to make sure that we can use something other than corn from which to make ethanol. If you're a hog farmer, you're getting tired of seeing the corn prices go up. If you're a corn farmer, it's a nice feeling to see the prices go up. *[Laughter]*

But we believe we can come up with technologies that will enable us to use wood chips to make ethanol that you can put in your automobiles to help us become less depend-

ent on oil—or switch grasses. That would be nice for some of the people from my State. Switch grass grows in a nice, dry environment. And I understand you're dry here, by the way. The Senator and the Congressmen are working hard on me about the drought that you've got here. *[Laughter]* But some parts of our country need to—have got dry country, and they can grow some switch grass.

The whole idea is to come up with different ways to power our automobiles. And along those lines, I think it's not going to be long before you're going to be able to drive an automobile with new battery technologies that you can just plug in your garage. And your automobile won't look like a golf cart. It will be a normal size pickup truck. *[Laughter]*

So I laid out a goal that said, we're going to reduce our gasoline usage by 20 percent over 10 years as a part of our energy diversification strategy. And I think we can achieve that. I also know we need to change our fuel economy standards, just like we did for trucks, and I want to work with Congress to do that as well.

In other words, it's part of a comprehensive strategy. I call it the 20–10 goal. And I commend Congress for pursuing the framework for the 20–10 proposal. It's a promising start. However, as this bill's getting written, it's being frustrated by special interests and, of course, all the politics that takes place in Washington, DC.

The current plan being debated in the Senate falls far short of the ambitious goal I laid out. But it's a realistic goal. It's a necessary goal if we want to become less dependent on oil from overseas. The Senate's proposed fuel mandate, for example, calls for just a 10 percent reduction in gasoline usage by 2017. We can do much better than that. We really can. We've got to be optimistic about what America can do when we put our mind to doing something.

And so I urge the Congress to be realistic about the bills they're talking about and get it done. Get it to my desk so that we can all say, "We've done a good job of representing the people."

By the way, as we talk about these new technologies, we're still going to need oil and



gas. And we can explore for oil and gas in environmentally friendly ways. I strongly believe that we ought to open up more outer continental shelf area as well as ANWR in Alaska. You know, there's a big debate about whether or not you can drill and find oil and gas that's good for you without ruining the environment. I'm telling you we can. Technologies have changed.

By the way, when they're debating the bill up there, they've also got to fill up—add to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. If you're worried about a terrorist attack which could affect the price of oil, we ought to have oil in the ground that we can use to protect the American consumer. And they need to expand the Petroleum Reserve against natural disasters—protection against natural disasters as well as a potential attack.

By the way, the Supreme Court—I don't know if you follow the Supreme Court at all, but they've ruled that the EPA must take action under the Clean Air Act regarding greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. That's what the Court said. And when the Court says something, then the executive branch of Government says, "Okay, you said it; now we'll listen. We'll do what you asked us to do."

And so I directed the EPA and the Department of Transportation, Energy, and Agriculture to take the first steps toward regulations that would cut gasoline consumption and greenhouse gases using the plan I just described to you. So Congress can pass the law, which I hope they do, but if they don't, we're moving forward because the Supreme Court told us to move forward. And either way, in either case, we're going to become less dependent on oil, and that's good for the United States of America.

So I appreciate you letting me come by and talk a little energy. You live it; I'm talking it. *[Laughter]* I thank you for what you're doing for the country. I thank you for your hard work. I thank you for your skill. I thank you for your prayers. I thank you for being good Americans.

And may God bless you, and may God bless our country. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:38 p.m. at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. In his remarks, he referred to William B. Sansom, Chairman of the

Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority; and R.G. Jones, general manager, and Brian O'Grady, vice president, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

### **Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate Jefferson B. Sessions III in Mobile, Alabama**

*June 21, 2007*

**The President.** Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm delighted to be here in Mobile. It's an exciting place, isn't it?

**Audience members.** Yes!

**The President.** So I'm flying in with Jeff and Congressman Jo Bonner, who, by the way, is doing a fantastic job for you—couldn't wait to show me the new building. He said, "I understand that Laura loves to come to Mobile. We'll just rent you a place in it." *[Laughter]*

I'm excited for you to be living in such a vibrant part of our country. For those of you who are creating jobs and helping this part of the world grow, thank you for doing what you're doing. And Laura and I are really grateful to be with you. She loves coming down here. She loves coming to see the Fooses. She's making new friends coming down here. And one of these days, I'm going to come down here and get some fishing in. But in the meantime, I've got a job to do. *[Laughter]*

So we're proud to be with you. I'm really happy to be here with Jeff Sessions. He's a unique fellow. He's smart. He's capable. He's down-to-earth. What you see is what you get. He has done a fabulous job representing Alabama, and he deserves to be reelected.

And I want to thank you for helping him. You know, when you get out there as a candidate, sometimes you wonder whether or not anybody is going to be for you. Well, it's easy for me to see, Jeff, that in this room, there's a lot of people for you. And I thank you for your time to help him, and I thank you for your hard-earned money, to make it clear to the people of Alabama that this guy is the right man to represent you in the United States Senate for 6 more years.

I'll never forget coming down here for Hurricane Ivan. As you know—and probably

some of you got hit hard by it. One of the things that struck me about Senator Sessions during that time was his great compassion for all the people of Alabama. As sure as my memory serves me correctly, he said, "When you get back up there and start writing these emergency declarations, make sure you don't forget the people from the rural part of my State. It's so easy to remember the people living in the big cities. But, Mr. President, there's a lot of good folks from Alabama that are in rural Alabama, and I want you to remember them when it came time for the emergency."

See, Jeff Sessions is a big thinker. He just doesn't get caught up in one aspect of Alabama society. He thinks clearly and compassionately for all people of this State. And so, Jeff, I'm proud of what you told me then. I think I listened to you very carefully and wrote those emergency declarations just like the way you told me to. *[Laughter]*

He's a strong ally on a lot of fronts. We occasionally have our differences. *[Laughter]* I mean, take the immigration bill, for example. *[Laughter]* We both agree we've got a problem. *[Laughter]* And the fundamental question is, how best to fix it?

I remember—and I'm going to share this with Sessions—I remember a political buddy of mine in Texas. He said, if we agreed 100 percent of the time, one of us wouldn't be necessary. *[Laughter]* Well, he's necessary in the United States Senate, and I'm proud you're here to back him, and thanks for coming.

I married well, and so did Sessions. *[Laughter]* And we're proud to be here with Mary and the family. I don't know if you know this or not, but Abbie Sessions is here. That's Jeff's mom, 94 years young. And Ms. Sessions, thanks for coming—as well as his aunt, Mary Powe. She's only 88. *[Laughter]* We're glad you all are here. Thanks for raising a good boy, Ms. Sessions. And I'm sure, Jeff, your mother is like mine—she's constantly telling you what to do. *[Laughter]* And I hope you're listening. *[Laughter]*

I'm also proud to be here—I mentioned Jo came down with us, and Janee came here as well, the Bonners. Listen, this guy cares a lot about the people of Mobile. He is constantly talking about what needs to happen

down here. You know, "We've got to get this plan; we've got to do this, Mr. President; remember the people down here." He's really making you a fine hand, and it would be really wise to make sure you send him back to the United States Congress as well.

Alabama Treasurer Kay Ivey is with us. Kay, thank you for joining us. Proud you're here. She's from Sessions's hometown. What's the name of it again?

**Senator Sessions.** Camden.

**The President.** Camden. Yeah, Camden. There she is back there. Thanks for coming. And how many people in your high school class?

**Senator Sessions.** Thirty.

**The President.** Thirty people in the high school—he finished in the top 30 in the—*[laughter]*. Better than I did. *[Laughter]*

We appreciate the fact that Mike Duncan, the chairman of the Republican National Committee has come today. Michael, thanks for coming down with us; appreciate your being here. Edgar Welden, national committeeman from Alabama, and his wife, Louise—appreciate you being here, Edgar. Thanks for serving.

I thank all the grassroots activists who are here. Those are the people, Jeffrey, who are going to put up your signs, knock on the doors, make the phone calls necessary to do what's right for the country and for this State, and that's to put you back in the United States Senate.

I want to talk about two issues that matter in politics, and it matters for this country. That would be peace and prosperity. This is a nation at war. I wish I could report to you that it wasn't the case, but it is a nation at war. And we better have people in the United States Senate who understand that—and Jeffrey understands that—because when you understand that, then you understand the most important priority for your Government is to protect you. It's the single most important task that we have in Washington, DC, is to do that which is necessary to protect the American people from an attack.

And the first thing in order to understand the nature of this war, you must understand the nature of the enemy. We are facing ideologues, people who have a vision about how they want the world to look. These are

people that do not believe in the same freedoms we believe in.

One of the great freedoms of America is the ability of the people—ability for people to worship the way they so choose. These people believe that if you don't worship the way they choose, they'll put you in harm's way. They can't stand freedom. They can't stand the idea of people being able to express their opinions in the public square. They have a vision, and that is to spread their ideology as far as they possibly can. They want to reestablish what's called the caliphate, and they use murder as a tool to achieve their objectives.

These people are dangerous; they're lethal. You can't make any—can't talk common sense to them. The only way to protect the American people is to stay on the offense and defeat them overseas so we don't have to face them here.

And that is the great challenge facing the United States of America. The fundamental question is, will we have people in the United States Senate who understand that we're in a global war against ideologues that murder the innocent to achieve their objectives? The question is, will we have people who understand that their objective is to create as much chaos and havoc and cause us to retreat from the world? That's the challenge.

We face threats from around the world. And that's why I call it a global war on terror. And some of the lessons of September the 11th must never be forgotten. One lesson, of course, is the nature of these people. Another lesson is that when we see threats, we must take them seriously. Third lesson is, is that we must do everything we can to deny safe haven from which these killers could plot and plan attacks on the United States of America. And that's precisely the strategy that you're seeing unfold.

In Afghanistan, the enemy had achieved safe haven. We gave them ample time to kick the enemy out of the country. They chose not to, and we liberated 25 million people as we took the action necessary to protect the American people.

In Iraq, I saw a threat to the United States of America; the world saw the same threat. We went to the United Nations, as you might remember, and said, "Disclose, disarm, or

face serious consequences." Saddam Hussein had the choice to make. He defied the world once again, and the United States, with a strong coalition, freed the world of the dangers of Saddam Hussein, freed the Iraqi people. The world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

Jeff Sessions understands that. He understands that the United States of America must defend ourselves. And he also understands that when we find the enemy overseas, we must deal with them there, otherwise, we'll have to face them here. And in Iraq—this is a tough fight in Iraq; it really is. It's the kind of battle that has got the capability of shaking the will of the American people. We're a compassionate people. We care deeply about human rights and human dignity. And when we see innocent people lose their life, it makes a lot of people wonder whether or not it's worth it, whether or not we can succeed.

I do want to remind you, however, that after living under a brutal tyrant, when given a chance, 12 million Iraqis went to the polls. They said, "Let us be free. We want to exercise our right as free individuals." It seems like an eternity ago, didn't it, when that vote took place. But in the march of history, it wasn't all that long. People do want to live in a free society. Mothers in the Muslim world want to raise their children in peace, just like mothers in Mobile, Alabama, want to raise their children in peace. There's something universal about the desire to live in a peaceful setting, in a peaceful society. So it shouldn't surprise you, as this young democracy begins to emerge, that the enemies of freedom have taken actions necessary to stop the progress.

Most of the suicide bombings and the most horrific of bombings are perpetuated on the Iraqi people by Al Qaida. Al Qaida is the same bunch that attacked us on September the 11th and killed nearly 3,000 people. And what's that should tell the American people—it should tell the American people that we ought to take the words of Al Qaida seriously when they say, "We're going to drive you out of Iraq so we can have a safe haven from which to plot and plan attacks on America." The fight for freedom in Iraq is the fight

for the security of the United States of America, and we must prevail.

The President makes decisions. And I made the decision to send more troops into Baghdad and Iraq as opposed to pulling out, and I want to share with you why. I saw the sectarian violence that was beginning to rage. Remember in 2005, we had the elections. The Government was elected under the most modern Constitution written in the Middle East. The enemy sees the progress; they bombed the mosques; it caused the sectarian violence to begin to spill out. And I was deeply concerned about whether or not that violence would spill out of the capital into the country and into the region. And remember, Al Qaida and the extremists love chaos. They're looking for power vacuums into which they can move their ideology as well as their strategies.

I listened very carefully to Senators like Jeff Sessions and Senators who didn't agree with what Jeff and I believed was necessary. I listened to our military. That's what you want your President doing. And, by the way, you want your Senators supporting the United States military, which Jeff Sessions really does.

So I made the decision to name a new commander as well as send troops into Baghdad, all aiming to give this young democracy a chance to survive the relentless attacks from the extremists and radicals who want to prevent their emergence. I knew this, I knew that if we were to retreat from Iraq, unlike other wars we have fought, the enemy would follow us here. It's one of the primary lessons of the world in which we live.

And we're making some progress in Iraq. It's a tough fight. David Petraeus just finally got all the troops he's asked for, this past week. And now we're routing out the enemy along with the Iraqis.

Now, I talked to Prime Minister Maliki last week and made it very clear to him that people all around the United States hope they succeed, but we understand that they are going to have to do some hard work, that they've got to do the political work necessary, that they've got to show those moms that a peaceful world will come, and they'll do the political work necessary to get it done.

But I felt it was necessary to give them some space to get that job done. And so we're going to—and I want to thank Jeff Sessions. You know, it's not necessarily a popular thing to stand up and say, "I support the troops, and I support the reinforcements, and I support David Petraeus." It may not be popular in certain circles, but it certainly brings confidence to the United States military to hear United States Senators speak with strength and conviction about the job these kids are doing.

It's tough work, but its necessary work. If we were to leave before the job is done, if we were to allow this young democracy to be overwhelmed by the extremists and the radicals, people in the Middle East would say, "What's the word of the United States worth?" There would be people who want to live in a peaceful world wondering about the great nation of the United States. Al Qaida would be emboldened. It would make it easier to recruit. It would cause people who might be trying to choose how to—what kind of life they would want to slip into the company of these radicals and killers. People would look back 50 years from now, I'm confident, and say, "What happened to them in the year 2007? How come they couldn't see the impending danger? How come they couldn't see the threats that would evolve by enabling radicals to be able to emerge? How come they didn't deal with Iran as a perpetrator of radical Shiism that would be in competition with radical Sunniism, all of which would endanger the United States of America?"

Well, I'm going to tell you something. I see the danger; I see the threat. And I can't wait to continue to lead the United States forward to make sure we secure this country for the long time. In the long run, the only way to defeat this ideology of hatred is with an ideology of hope. And that's an ideology based upon freedom.

I will tell you what I believe. I believe there is an Almighty, and I believe a great gift of the Almighty to each man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth is freedom. That's what I believe. And I believe it's in the interests of the United States of America to promote freedom and democracy as the

great alternatives to the ideology that inspired 19 kids to come and kill nearly 3,000 of our citizens. And that's the real challenge of the 21st century.

It's the great challenge we face. And the great challenge is to defeat this ideology with something better. And we've done it in the past. This isn't the first time the United States of America has had to defend ourselves against ideologues. This is—I know there's—some of you had relatives who fought in the Pacific in World War II. I did. I find it one of the great ironies of history that one of my great friends during my Presidency was the Prime Minister of Japan. Isn't that interesting? My dad was a Navy fighter pilot who fought the Japanese. They were the sworn enemy of our country. Thousands of people died. And yet, some 60 years later, his son sits at the table talking about the peace with the former enemy, Koizumi and now Prime Minister Abe.

It startles me every time I think about it, but it gives me great faith in understanding the power of liberty to transform the world in which we live, to make it peaceful for generations to come. It gives me great faith to know that liberty had the capacity to transform an enemy into an ally. Liberty has got the ability to lift people's hopes, to bring light into society. Liberty has got the capacity to lay that foundation of peace for generations to come.

This is the challenge we face in the 21st century. I am proud to be standing with a man who understands the challenges and will do everything in his power to help us accomplish our mission, and that's Jeff Sessions.

I want to talk about one other issue, and that's how do we make sure this economy stays strong. They're telling me the unemployment rate here in Alabama is 3 percent. Something's working. *[Laughter]*

The economy is strong around the United States. We created more than 8 million new jobs over the past 4 years. When I say "we," that's not government. Those are small-business owners, entrepreneurs, dreamers, doers, risk takers. The economic history, the recent economic history, however, of the country hasn't been all that pleasant. You might remember, shortly after I got sworn in as President of the United States, we went into a

recession, and then we had a terrorist attack on our country. We had some corporate scandals we had to deal with, which created uncertainty. The economic outlook not all that long ago wasn't all that bright. It wasn't all that cheery.

We came together with Members of the United States Senate like Jeff Sessions. We said, what do we need to do? How do we need to make sure our economy grows? And we put forth an inherent part of our philosophy which says this: You can spend your money better than the government can. And the best way to create economic vitality and economic growth is to cut the taxes on the people who work.

And this is a big issue for the American people. Taxes has always been a big issue, and it will always be a big issue because it is a fundamental debate about the proper role of government. It's a fundamental debate about understanding how new jobs are created. Most new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. When you cut the taxes on people, on the individual taxes, you are really cutting the taxes on small businesses because most small businesses are limited partnerships or sole proprietorships or subchapter S's. When you cut the taxes on people who are working, it gives them hope and inspiration. It puts that proper balance between government and you.

Jeff Sessions understands that. I understand it. The best way to keep this economy growing is to make sure the Democrats don't run up your taxes. And they want to. *[Laughter]* All you've got to do is look at that budget they just submitted—a lot of new spending. You know, you'll hear them say, "Oh, we're just going to raise the taxes on the rich." Well, first of all, you can't raise enough money on the rich to whet their appetite. And secondly, they're going to say, "We're going to raise your taxes, don't worry about it, just to balance the budget." That's not the way it works in Washington. They will raise your taxes so they can spend new money on new programs.

Make no mistake about it, this is a fundamental divide between our two parties. If you want somebody in the United States Senate

who will keep your taxes low, who understands the proper balance between government and entrepreneurship, it is Senator Jeff Sessions.

Some of you are probably concerned about the budget. You should be. But you ought to be pleased with how progrowth economic policies have affected the budget. You see, it's interesting. When you keep taxes low, it causes the economy to grow. And when the economy grows, it causes there to be more tax revenues into the Treasury. And if you're wise about spending the money like we have been over the past 5 years, not overspending, setting priorities—by the way, we're going to make sure our troops get all they need. We'll make sure our veterans are fully supported when they take the uniform off. But we've got to set priorities in Washington.

If you're wise about spending the money, it's amazing what happens to the deficit. I said, we're going to cut the deficit in half in 5 years. It turns out, we cut the deficit in half 3 years earlier. I then submitted a budget that said, we're going to balance the budget in 5 years. Our deficit relative to GDP is low. In other words, what's happening is, progrowth economic policies are creating plenty of revenues. And now the task is to make sure that we keep your spending down to a reasonable level, and that's why they got the President the veto.

And one thing is, you can count on Sessions, see. That's the thing about it. He understands that we've got to keep taxes low. He understands that you've got to make the tough decision when it comes to spending money. And he understands we better support our troops. I'm proud to be up here with him. I can't think of a better United States Senator than Jeff Sessions. You're lucky to have him in Alabama. He's lucky to have you as friends.

Thanks for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:05 p.m. at the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan.

## **Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom on a Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty**

*June 21, 2007*

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair have today signed a Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty which will further strengthen and deepen the effort between our respective defense establishments to achieve fully interoperable forces, and to leverage the strength of our defense industries in direct support of our armed forces.

At a time when American and British forces continue to work closely together on operations overseas, the President and the Prime Minister share the view that we need to do all that we can to enhance our ability to cooperate by reducing the barriers to exchange of defense goods, services, and information between the United States and the United Kingdom.

This further cooperation will benefit the operational defense capabilities of the United States and the United Kingdom by improving the interoperability of equipment and systems between our armed forces. Our armed forces must have the most effective means possible to fight not only in traditional battlefield situations, but also when they face asymmetric threats such as IEDs. By removing barriers to communication and collaboration between, and among, our armed forces and our defense industries, we will provide our forces with the most effective means possible to counter these threats.

In addition, these new arrangements will help maintain the strength of our respective defense industries. By enhancing the ability of our defense industries to take advantage of the rich and deep technical experience in the United States and in the United Kingdom, we will continue to develop and field the most effective military capabilities possible.

Together, both governments will also aim to finalize implementing arrangements by the end of the year and to complete steps necessary under their respective domestic laws to implement the treaty.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol Amending the Belgium-United States Taxation Convention**

*June 21, 2007*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and accompanying Protocol, signed on November 27, 2006, at Brussels (the “proposed Treaty”). The proposed Treaty will replace the existing income tax treaty between the two countries that was concluded in 1970 and amended by protocol in 1987. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the proposed Treaty.

The proposed Treaty eliminates the withholding tax on certain cross-border dividend payments, including dividend payments to pension funds. The proposed Treaty also provides for mandatory arbitration of certain cases brought before the competent authorities. This provision is only the second of its kind in a proposed U.S. tax treaty. In addition, the proposed Treaty includes provisions, consistent with current U.S. tax-treaty policy, that are designed to prevent so-called treaty shopping.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 21, 2007.

**Remarks Following Discussions With President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam**

*June 22, 2007*

**President Bush.** Mr. President, thank you for coming. Laura and I remember very fondly our trip to your beautiful country. And I remember so very well the warm reception that we received from your Government and the people of Vietnam.

I explained to the President, we want to have good relations with Vietnam. And we’ve got good economic relations. We signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. And I was impressed by the growing Vietnamese economy.

I also made it very clear that in order for relations to grow deeper that it’s important for our friends to have a strong commitment to human rights and freedom and democracy. I explained my strong belief that societies are enriched when people are allowed to express themselves freely or worship freely.

I thanked the President for his continued cooperation on the issue of POWs and MIAs. I saw firsthand that cooperation when I was in Vietnam. We are now extending our search to missing remains in some of the coastal regions of Vietnam.

I also told the President that Congress recently passed appropriations measures to help with dioxin, or Agent Orange. It has helped the people of his country. And, as well, we’re firmly committed to helping Vietnam in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

And so we welcome you, Mr. President. And thank you for the frank and candid discussion.

**President Triet.** Upon the kind invitation extended to me by President Bush, I have decided to make this official visit to the United States. And I would like to thank Mr. President for your warm and kind hospitality. And also, to you, I would like to extend my thanks to the American people for their warm hospitality.

Over the last couple of days, I have had the fortunate opportunity to meet with a large number of American people and American businesses. And everywhere I went and anywhere I met, I always—I was always extended good hospitality and cooperation.

It's very impressive that yesterday I had a chance to visit a farmer who raised grapes. And the life is very happy, and they have a warmth of feelings toward Vietnam. And the owner had to hug me several times, hesitating to say good bye to us, and that demonstrates the desire for friendship between our two peoples.

And President Bush and I have had productive and constructive discussions. And both sides agree that our bilateral relationship has continued to develop. Especially since Mr. President's last visit to Vietnam, our relations have witnessed a new, fine development. On the economic front, our cooperation has been intensified. In addition to that, our cooperation has also intensified in other areas such as humanitarian cooperation, science, technology, education, and training.

And I sincerely thank the U.S. Government and people for your aid to HIV and AIDS patients. And we highly appreciate the Congress appropriations for dioxin and Agent Orange victims. And I believe that the increased and good relationship between our two country would benefit not only our two countries but also constitute a constructive factor for safeguarding peace and stability in our region.

And we have also discussed on specific measures of how to advance further our relations in a wide range of areas, be it political, economic, trade, investment, education, or training, humanitarian, et cetera. And in short, our relations are broadened, deepened on a sustainable and effective—in a sustainable and effective manner. And as Mr. President has mentioned, both sides have just signed a Trade Investment Framework Agreement, TIFA, and many other high-value economic agreements and contracts.

And Mr. President and I also had direct and open exchange of views on a matter that we remain different, especially on matters related to religion and human rights. And our approach is that we would increase our dialog in order to have a better understanding of each other. And we are also determined not to let those differences afflict our overall, larger interest.

And I also would like to take this opportunity to send a message to American people,

particularly the good feelings from Vietnamese people to American people. I would like to tell you that Vietnam nowadays is a stable, peaceful, and friendly country. And Vietnamese people want to have a good consolidation and friendship with American people. And so if both peoples—both want peace, friendship, and solidarity, then we should join hands and march toward the future.

And on this occasion, I also would like to extend my warmest greetings to my fellow man living in the United States. And Vietnamese Americans are part and parcel of the Vietnamese nation. And it is my desire to see them succeed, and hope they will continue to serve as a bridge of friendship between our two countries.

And so, once again, I would like to thank Mr. President and the U.S. Government and American people for your warm hospitality.

**President Bush.** Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Triet spoke in Vietnamese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Remarks at a Reception for Black Music Month

June 22, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Rachel, thank you—thanks for coming; thanks for the introduction; and thanks for representing the United States. Proud to have you here.

I want to welcome you all right here to the people's house. I'm pleased you could join us for this annual celebration of Black Music Month. This is an event I've always looked forward to. It's a chance to listen to some good music—[laughter]—and to be with some good friends. It's an opportunity for us to thank artists whose work inspire our country. And so thanks for coming. I hope you enjoy the day as much as I do.

I appreciate the fact that Alphonso is with us, Alphonso Jackson and Marcia. He's the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. Dorothy Height is with us. I'm proud you're here, Dr. Height.



Thanks for joining us. My friend Bob Johnson has joined us. He knows a little something about black entertainment. *[Laughter]* Thanks for coming. Roslyn Brock, vice chairman of the NAACP—I'm proud you're here, Roslyn. Thank you for coming. Thanks for joining us. Dyana Williams, president of the International Association of African American Music Foundation—she knows something about music. *[Laughter]* I appreciate Kevin Liles, executive vice president of the Warner Music Company. Thank you for coming—and Jonathan Platt, senior vice president of EMI Music Publishing and Virgin Records. Appreciate you all being here. Thanks for coming.

Most of all, thank you all. Thanks for taking time out of your day to come. One of the best things about living here is that some of the best musicians come to play. *[Laughter]* It's amazing what kind of talent you can draw here at the White House. *[Laughter]*

And over the years, American Presidents have seen some fantastic African American musicians here on the White House stage. President Chester Arthur—you might remember Chester—*[laughter]*—he welcomed the first black choir to perform at the White House, the Jubilee Singers from Fisk University. President Benjamin Harrison hosted one of the first black soloists to play at the White House, Sissieretta Jones, who was the daughter of a slave. President William Howard Taft invited Joseph Douglass—grandson of Frederick Douglass—to perform here. Franklin Roosevelt hosted the great Marian Anderson, when she performed “Ave Maria” for the King and Queen of England. President Ronald Reagan hosted Mikhail Gorbachev and invited the legendary Pearl Bailey to entertain. And when he introduced her, he just simply said—simply, “our Pearl”—“welcome, our Pearl.” *[Laughter]* I hope the translator got that right. *[Laughter]*

And Laura and I had some incredible entertainers and Americans sing for us and our friends. We've had Eartha Kitt, Patti Austin, B.B. King, Irwin Mayfield, Aaron Neville—just to give you a taste of what happens here at the White House. Each of the performers has inspired people across the world with their talents, and each performer has brought great pride to the United States. It's really

a great country that can produce a diverse group of musicians that can serve as ambassadors about what's right about America.

And we're proud to welcome some new musicians here to the White House today. We're just keeping in a long trend of Presidents who have welcomed some of our great musicians here to the White House. So as we honor Black Music Month, it makes sense to bring some talent here to entertain us.

Karina Pasian grew up in New York City. She's the child of immigrants from the Dominican Republic. Her parents are both teachers in the New York Public School System, and early on, it became clear that Karina had an incredible gift for music. At age 3—that's the definition of “early on”—*[laughter]*—she was singing and studying piano. By age 12, she was performing at the Coliseum in Rome before a television audience of more than a half-million people, alongside Alicia Keys and Stevie Wonder and Andrea Bocelli. Today, she's 15 years old. She's already recorded her first album.

And despite her young age, she tackles very mature issues with her music. She sings about hunger and disease in Africa and the genocide in Darfur. And we appreciate that clarity, appreciate her bringing these issues to focus to help more people understand that the world's got to do something about it now, before it's too late. I will tell you, the—America is in the lead when it comes to HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa; we're on the lead when it comes to feeding the hungry; we're on the lead when it comes to eradicating malaria. And that's where we need to be, and that's where we will stay. And I appreciate very much Karina bringing this issue to focus. We're proud that you're here, and we're proud that you brought your big heart to this stage.

We're also going to welcome Kem Owens, who learned to love music growing up in Detroit listening to R&B greats. He listened to them on his mom and dad's radio. He taught himself to play piano at the home of his Baptist minister grandfather. But as a teenager, this good man lost his way. He became addicted to drugs and alcohol, and eventually, he became homeless. Today he finds a home, a warm home to welcome him. He was sleeping on the ground near a building on the

Detroit River, and he said this: God found him and inspired him to set his life straight. With the help of the Almighty, he overcame his addictions and he rediscovered his passion for music. In 2001, he used a credit card to finance the production of an independent CD he called “Kemistry.” Get it—Kem Owens? [Laughter] Kemistry? [Laughter]

The disc sold 10,000 copies in 5 months. It caught the attention of music executives in New York who signed KEM to a major label deal. He has gone on to become one of America’s most popular R&B singers. But he knows the audience he’s truly playing for. He says, quote, “I want my life to be one that God will be pleased with. I’m by no means a saint.” I know what you’re saying, KEM. [Laughter] But he went on to say, “My eye is on the prize. He’s not done with me yet.” We’re proud to welcome such a man to the White House today.

And finally, Tourie and Damien Escobar discovered their love for the violin in the third grade and soon found themselves studying classical music at New York’s finest conservatories. But they grew up in a tough neighborhood, and soon Tourie and Damien had dropped their music, dropped out of school, and fallen in with a bad crowd. Yet their mother and aunt never gave up hope. And with their encouragement and prayers, these two brothers returned to the music they loved.

They formed a group called “Nuttin’ But Stringz,” performing a new music fusion that bridges classical, R&B, and rap. I’m looking forward to it. [Laughter] They started by playing on subways and went on to win amateur music contests at the Apollo Theater. And last month, they released their first album. Here’s what Tourie says: “The passion for music and the violin saved my life.” And today that passion has brought these talented musicians right here to the White House.

All these artists represent the best of our country. They represent hope and hard work. We’re looking forward to hearing them perform. They’re going to be in a long list of performers who have come here to be able to entertain the country, to lend their musical talents to this, the people’s house.

I appreciate them coming to help us celebrate Black Music Month. I appreciate you all joining to help celebrate Black Music Month. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:04 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Miss USA 2007 Rachel Smith; civil rights leader Dorothy I. Height; and Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman, The RLJ Companies.

---

## Digest of Other White House Announcements

---

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

---

### June 16

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### June 17

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

### June 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, President Jalal Talabani, and Vice Presidents Adil Abd Al-Mahdi and Tariq al-Hashimi of Iraq.

In the afternoon, at the historic Evermay house, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a signing ceremony for H.R. 1676, the Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will host a White House Conference on the Americas on July 9.

The President announced that he has nominated Paul R. Brubaker to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced that he has nominated Nancy Goodman Brinker to be Chief of Protocol at the Department of State, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

The President announced that he has nominated David W. James to be Assistant Secretary of Labor (Public Affairs).

The President announced that he has nominated Steven H. Murdock to be Director of the Census at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced that he has nominated Eunice S. Reddick to be Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.

### **June 19**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel.

The President announced his intention to nominate James A. Nussle to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Kansas by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures as a result of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that struck the State on May 4–18.

### **June 20**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he went to the State Department where he participated in a photo opportunity and met with Caribbean heads of government.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald K. McMullen to be Ambassador to Eritrea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah Taylor Tate to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Young, Jr., to be Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint LaSalle Doheny Leffall, Jr., as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced his intention to designate Horace A. Thompson as Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

### **June 21**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Huntsville, AL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Don Clark. He then traveled to Athens, AL, arriving in the afternoon, where he toured the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Mobile, AL, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Debbie Gardner.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clarence H. "Bud" Albright to be Under Secretary of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Clarke Brown to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science: Susan Davis Allen; Ching-Wu Chu; Darleane Christian Hoffman; Linda P. B. Katehi; and Rodney J. Brown.

The President announced that he has named John G. Emling as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

**June 22**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam.

---

**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

---

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

---

**Submitted June 18**

Nancy Goodman Brinker,  
of Florida, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, vice Donald Burnham Ensenat, resigned.

Paul R. Brubaker,  
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Ashok G. Kaveeshwar, resigned.

David W. James,  
of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Randolph James Clerihue.

Steven H. Murdock,  
of Texas, to be Director of the Census, vice Louis Kincannon.

Eunice S. Reddick,  
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

**Submitted June 21**

Clarence H. Albright,  
of South Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Energy, vice David Garman, resigned.

Robert Clarke Brown,  
of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring November 22, 2011 (reappointment).

Ronald K. McMullen,  
of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Eritrea.

Deborah Taylor Tate,  
of Tennessee, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2007 (reappointment).

John J. Young, Jr.,  
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, vice Kenneth J. Krieg.

---

**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

---

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

---

**Released June 18**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President and Mrs. Bush To Host White House Conference on the Americas

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1676

**Released June 19**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kansas

***Released June 20***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: Advancing Stem Cell Research While Respecting Moral Boundaries

***Released June 21***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 676 and S. 1537

Fact sheet: Expanding the Safe Use of Nuclear Power

***Released June 22***

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

---

**Acts Approved  
by the President**

---

***Approved June 18***

H.R. 1676 / Public Law 110–37  
Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007

***Approved June 21***

S. 676 / Public Law 110–38  
To provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation

S. 1537 / Public Law 110–39  
To authorize the transfer of certain funds from the Senate Gift Shop Revolving Fund to the Senate Employee Child Care Center